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Illegal Israeli actions in Occupied East Jerusalem and the rest of the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Security Council
Fifty-seventh year

Identical letters dated 20 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

It is my profound regret to inform you that, by 18 December 2002, the number of Palestinians killed by the Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 tragically surpassed 2,000 martyrs. These Palestinian martyrs have included men, women, children and the elderly. Indeed, no segment of Palestinian society has been spared the lethal force of this ongoing and bloody Israeli military campaign.

In the countless assaults launched against the Palestinian civilian population, the occupying forces have used all means of heavy weaponry in their vast arsenal and all methods of killing, including extrajudiciary executions. The more than 2,000 martyrs killed by the Israeli occupying forces as of this date, however, do not include the many Palestinians who have died as a result of other practices of the occupying Power, such as those who died because they were prevented from obtaining access to medical care, including the chronically ill and mothers or infants who died during birth at Israeli checkpoints. In addition to this tragic and extensive loss of human life, more than 35,000 Palestinians have been injured as a result of the excessive, indiscriminate and disproportionate force used by the Israeli occupying forces against the civilian population.

The wide range of Israeli crimes and violations committed against the Palestinian people under occupation over the past 27 months has also included frequent and continuing military raids on Palestinian cities, towns, villages and refugee camps. This has involved the abduction and detention of thousands of Palestinians. Currently, there are more than 5,000 Palestinians, mostly males between the ages of 15 and 55, who continue to be held by the occupying Power in prisons or detention centres. Moreover, the destruction incurred by the occupying forces throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory has been massive. Such wanton destruction and widespread damage of both public and private Palestinian property has included thousands of homes, including refugee shelters, hundreds of vehicles, vital infrastructure, including water, electricity and sewage networks and roads, institutions of the Palestinian Authority, religious and historic sites, and agricultural

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land and orchards. The devastation wrought by the occupying forces has severely and negatively impacted all sectors of Palestinian society — economic, social, political, health, educational, religious and cultural. As a result, a dire humanitarian situation continues to prevail in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

Indeed, Israel, the occupying Power, has not for one day ceased its military campaign of killing and destruction in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In the week since my last letter, the Israeli occupying forces killed another 12 Palestinians, including and 11-year-old girl, Nada Kamal Madi, killed yesterday as she opened a window in her home in the Rafah refugee camp in Gaza. In addition, dozens more Palestinians were abducted and detained this week by the occupying forces. Moreover, the occupying forces demolished at least 10 Palestinian homes during this same period.

This letter is in follow-up to my previous 149 letters to you regarding the critical situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, since 28 September 2000. These letters, dated from 29 September 2000 (A/55/432-S/2000/921) to 13 December 2002 (A/ES-10/207-S/2002/1365), constitute a basic record of the crimes committed by the Israeli occupying forces against the Palestinian people since September 2000. For all of these war crimes, State terrorism and systematic human rights violations committed against the Palestinian people, Israel, the occupying Power, must be held accountable and the perpetrators must be brought to justice.

Accordingly, in follow-up to the above-mentioned letters, I regret to inform you that, since my last letter, the Israeli occupying forces have killed at least 12 Palestinians, including children, raising the total number of martyrs to 2,006 Palestinians. (The names of the martyrs that have been identified thus far are contained in the annex to the present letter.)

I would be grateful if you would arrange to have the present letter and its annex distributed as a document of the tenth emergency special session of the General Assembly, under agenda item 5, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Nasser **Al-Kidwa**
Ambassador
Permanent Observer of Palestinian
to the United Nations

Annex to the identical letters dated 20 December 2002 from the Permanent Observer of Palestine to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General and the President of the Security Council

Names of martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including Jerusalem* (Saturday, 14 December, to Thursday, 19 December 2002)

Saturday, 14 December 2002

Hamed Sa'eed Khairallah

Sunday, 15 December 2002

Mohammed Ziad Hussein (18 years old) (died from wounds sustained previously)

Monday, 16 December 2002

1. Hassan Farhan Mohammed Shloleh
2. Abdelkarim Rateb Shabat
3. Mohammed Mahmoud Edwan

Tuesday, 17 December 2002

Eid Asa'd Abu Hilal

Wednesday, 18 December 2002

1. Roshdi Mohammed Hussein Hashash
2. Jawad Issam Zidan (16 years old)
3. Ala'a Mohammed Musleh Al-Sododi (15 years old)

Thursday, 19 December 2002

1. Louay Ghazi Hosni Muhsen (1½ years old)
2. Nada Kamal Madi (11 years old)
3. Abdullah Nazmi Abdullah Rabia'a

* The total number of Palestinian martyrs killed by Israeli occupying forces since 28 September 2000 is 2,006.